

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION IX

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

JOINT NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS AND PUBLIC HEARING

by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX, WTR 2-3
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San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
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California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100,
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Public Order No.: 2939243

Public Notice Date: October 28, 2016

Comment Period Closes: December 21, 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region IX and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) are jointly releasing for public review and comment Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0007 (NPDES Permit No. CA0107409), *Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the City of San Diego E.W. Blom Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall* (Tentative Order/Permit) and USEPA, Region IX's Tentative Decision Document on the City's request for a waiver from secondary treatment requirements pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 301(h) (Tentative 301(h) Decision Document).

The City of San Diego is the owner and operator of the E.W. Blom Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). The current NPDES permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES Permit No. CA0107409, Order No. R9-2009-0001) are based on a variance from federal secondary treatment standards at title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) part 133, as provided for improved discharges under the Clean Water Act section 301(h) and 40 CFR part 125, subpart G. This Facility is located at 1902 Gatchell Road, San Diego, California, and discharges chlorinated advanced (chemically assisted) primary treated municipal wastewater to the Pacific Ocean through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall, approximately 4.5 miles offshore, at a depth of about 300 feet. Sewage solids are treated and either land applied, used as alternative daily cover at a landfill, or disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill.

Document Availability

Information related to this matter, including the Tentative Order/Permit and the Tentative 301(h) Decision Document waiver document, may be reviewed at the offices of USEPA, Region IX or San Diego Water Board (addresses above), during normal business hours, or at the following webpages: <https://www3.epa.gov/region9/water/npdes/permits.html#watersca> and http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/.

Submission of Written Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments on the Tentative Order/Permit and Tentative 301(h) Decision Document during the public comment period, either in person, by e-mail or by mail, to the attention of Peter Kozelka at USEPA (Kozelka.Peter@epa.gov) and Joann Lim at the San Diego Water Board (Joann.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov), or at the public hearing. Please indicate in the subject line of all written comments "Comment - Tentative Order No.R9-2017-0007." The deadline for submittal of written comments is **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2016**. However, persons commenting on the Tentative Order/Permit and Tentative 301(h) Decision Document are strongly encouraged to submit their comments in writing by **November 28 2016**, to facilitate consideration of the comments by the USEPA, Region IX and the San Diego Water Board at the public hearing on **December 14, 2016**.

USEPA, Region IX and the San Diego Water Board may refuse to accept written comments received after the December 21, 2016 deadline. Late comments will not be accepted if doing so would prejudice any party in accordance with section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

Public Hearing on Tentative Order/Permit and Tentative 301(h) Decision Document

USEPA, Region IX and the San Diego Water Board will conduct a joint public hearing on these proposed actions during the San Diego Water Board meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, December 14, 2016**, at the **San Diego Water Board Meeting Room, 2375 Northside Drive, San Diego California**. This item will be heard during a meeting that starts at 9:00 a.m. The meeting agenda, which will indicate any changes in the meeting location and may provide other specific information concerning this hearing, will be posted at least two weeks prior to the meeting date at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/. Reasonable time limits may be set for oral statements. The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. The meeting notice and agenda for this meeting will provide contact information for persons requesting special accommodations.

The procedures governing San Diego Water Board meetings may be found in the California Code of Regulations (CCRs) title 23, section 647, *et seq.* and are available upon request.

USEPA, Region IX and the San Diego Water Board will not be acting on the Tentative Order/Permit and Tentative 301(h) Decision Document at the public hearing on December 14, 2016, but will formally act on the Tentative Order/Permit and Tentative 301(h) Decision Document at a subsequent Board meeting.

Upon issuance of a final 301(h) permit decision and responses to comments, the USEPA, Region IX and San Diego Water Board will notify the City of San Diego and persons who submitted written comments or requested notice of the final 301(h) permit decision. When a final Order/Permit and 301(h) decision are issued, they will become effective 33 days following the date they are mailed to the City, unless a request for review is filed. Persons filing a request for review must have filed comments on the Tentative Order/Permit and the Tentative 301(h) Decision Document, or participated in the public hearing, except as provided in 40 CFR section 124.19.

Contact for Further Information

Please contact Mr. Peter Kozelka, 415-972-3448, Kozelka.Peter@epa.gov or Ms. Joann Lim 619-521-3362, Joann.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov for information regarding the above listed Tentative Order/Permit and Tentative 301(h) Decision Document. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any person known to you who would be interested in these matters.